

John J. Rorke, Jr.
RORKE, JR.

See 5 Mr. Brito
(Nassau)

2d Raider Flees, Hunts Red Tanker Capture Cuba Exile Ship

MIAMI, April 1 (UPI).—British police today surprised and captured a party of Cuban raiders trying to use Key Norman in the Bahamas as a springboard for an attack on Cuba. A second exile warship escaped capture and was reported scouring the Caribbean for a Soviet tanker.

Authorities in Nassau, 80 miles from Key Norman, said Bahamian police had been tipped to the exiles' plans and were lying in wait for them. The London Admiralty said 17 Cubans had been captured and their 35-foot ship taken in tow by the British frigate

Londonberry and said to be in Nassau.

ALTHOUGH EXILE sources said a U.S. Navy patrol plane had "spotted" the raiders for the British, the State Department said there was "no U.S. involvement" in the episode.

In New York, Alex Rorke Jr., a free-lance photographer, said the boat seized was owned by him—the Violin 3d, a 35-footer powered by two 220-horsepower engines and capable of up to 30 knots. He said he had "no doubt" the Bahamian police had been

tipped in advance on the raiders' plans.

The Admiralty announcement said Bahamian police had been flown to Key Norman in the Exuma Islands to seize the raiders when they arrived. The Londonberry arrived subsequently to take aboard the men captured. A crew from the Londonberry said the exiles' craft to Nassau.

The ship seizure was first announced here by "Maj. Bosch" of an exile group known as the "Cuban Anti-Communist Army." He said there were 16 men under command of Maj. Evello Duque

and "a large quantity of arms" aboard the captured patrol vessel. He said the skipper of the ship that escaped vowed to "resist seizure, even by U.S. navy units."

The activity was reported as an entirely different underground group, the Mexico-based "Freedom Fighter Commandos." It issued a "declaration of war" on all shipping with Cuba.

ACCORDING TO BOSCH, a detachment of British Negro Marines under a white officer boarded and seized the raider on its interception. It was assumed the boarding party came from the British frigate Londonberry, a 2,150-ton anti-submarine vessel ordered to leave Bermuda yesterday to patrol Caribbean sea lanes.

Bosch said the seizure occurred late yesterday near Norman's Bay in the British-owned Bahamas Island chain. The raider was spotted by a U. S. Navy patrol craft which then guided the British warship to the scene.

It was the first reported case of interception of a Cuban exile raider since the Kennedy administration's crackdown on such activities announced in Washington last Saturday. The British promised cooperation with American authorities in the crackdown.

Bosch said the second raider had reported the entire affair as it raced from capture to resume what he said was its search for a Soviet tanker reported in the vicinity.

Bosch said the second raider was identified as because he did not want them to take, Duque, was identified as a veteran and a former officer who

guerrilla force in the Sierra Escambray mountains of central Cuba.

The declaration of war by the "Freedom Fighter Commandos" coincided with mounting exile criticism of the new U. S. crackdown on attacks on the Castro regime and tight travel restrictions on some exile leaders and their followers.

The new commando group, which criticized Kennedy administration policy, sharply emphasized their projected naval war would not be carried out from U. S. territory.

The commando chief was identified only as "Maj. Liove." His operational headquarters were said to be "in a certain place of Mexico."

"As of one minute after midnight of Sunday night (March 31), we hereby announce a declaration of war on all ships that enter or leave Communist Cuba," the source said. He said British, Greek and any other ships doing business with Cuba, as well as Soviet freighters, would be considered "fair targets."

"WE ADVISE CUBAN stevedores and workers not to remain aboard any ships in Cuban ports nor aboard lighters or work vessels tied up alongside these ships. We do not want them to become the innocent victims of a veteran and a former officer who